

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PASRR AND THE 1135 WAIVER**

by Angela Howard, OBRA PASSR Director, April 6, 2020

- QUESTION** Can the requirement to complete PASRR Level I and Level II Screenings prior to admission for new admissions be waived for 30 days?
- ANSWER** Yes, due to the Presidential Emergency Declaration and the 1135 Waiver approval for PASRR, some screening functions, specifically, the requirement to complete Level I/II Screenings prior to admission for **new admissions** can be suspended for 30-Days during this emergency period.
- QUESTION** When does the 30-Day period begin?
- ANSWER** It begins on the date the person enters the nursing home. Then, if the person is in the nursing home for 30 days, a Level I must be submitted to our office to screen for MI/ID/RC.
- QUESTION** Are significant change/resident review cases waived as well?
- ANSWER** NO, the waiver does not include significant changes/resident reviews. These cases will continue to be submitted and processed by the OBRA Office.
- QUESTION** What if the person discharges from the nursing home before the 30 days?
- ANSWER** You do not have to submit a Level I Screening Form for persons who discharge prior to 30 days. However, if the person discharges before 30 days, ensure that the discharge is listed on the 1135 Tracking Listing. This listing must be faxed to the OBRA Office on every other Friday, beginning March 27, 2020.
- QUESTION** Although the Waiver gives facilities the option to waive Level I/II screenings for new admissions during this emergency period, are facilities still permitted to submit new admission Level I Screenings to the OBRA Office?
- ANSWER** Yes, facilities may still submit Level I Screenings for new admissions. The 1135 Waiver is a tool that gives states the flexibility to waive some regulatory requirements amid a Presidential Emergency Declaration. It aids states in their efforts to enhance safety, provide quicker access to care and in managing limited resources. However, it does not mandate that you waive Level I Screenings.

Think of it as a needs-based option. For example, during this emergency period, if it would be difficult for a hospital to complete the Level I/II Screening and wait for the subsequent Level II Evaluation period of 7 business days, waiving the Level I/II Screenings would be extremely helpful and permitted.

Conversely, if an applicant is in a facility or at home and time and resources are not critical, submitting the Level I Screening Form would be encouraged. Our goal is to strike a balance between safety, care and efficiency.

**QUESTION**

Does the waiver mean that nursing homes must accept all applicants?

**ANSWER**

NO, Medicaid Certified nursing homes must still determine if the applicant is appropriate and if they meet Alabama's medical level of care criteria.

**QUESTION**

I have admitted a new admission in my nursing home utilizing the 1135 waiver. Since this will be a long-term resident, can I go ahead and submit a Level I Screening to the OBRA Office in lieu of waiting for 30 days?

**ANSWER**

Yes, since this will be a long-term resident, it is recommended that you go ahead and submit the Level I Screening Form. It will not only minimize the chances of you overlooking it in the future, but it will help prevent future inefficiencies and delays caused by nursing homes waiting to the very last minute.

**QUESTION**

Must all Waiver admissions and discharges be tracked?

**ANSWER**

Yes, all Medicaid Certified nursing homes must send in a 1135 tracking listing to the OBRA Office on every other Friday. The first Tracking Listing was due on Friday March 27, 2020. If you did not submit the listing on the 27<sup>th</sup>, you must send it in upon reading this document. **Ensure the following information is included:** name of nursing home, nursing home contact person and telephone number, date of each resident's admission, date of discharge (when applicable) their first and last name and social security number. Please fax all Waiver Listings to 334-409-6903 using the title 1135 Waiver Listing

**QUESTION** Are new admission applicants who are currently out of state eligible to have their Level I/II Screenings waived?

**ANSWER** Yes, it applies to new admissions regardless of their location.

**QUESTION** When will this emergency period end?

**ANSWER** With the ever-evolving status changes of the Coronavirus, at this juncture, we do not know. We will update you as we are updated.

**For any other questions, please contact us at 1-800-548-2188 and an OBRA PASRR Specialist will be happy to assist you.**